

# **Product Description Document**

## **Marine Product Consolidation and Reformatting**

September 17, 2019

### **Part I - Mission Connection**

- a. Product/Service Description - Reformat all Marine Weather products (Watches, Warnings, Advisories and Statements) to follow a "What", "Where", "When", "Impacts" and "Precautionary/ Preparedness Actions" order with the exception of "High Seas" and "Special Marine Warnings". Marine products, with the exception of the Coastal Hazard Message (CFW), from the Alaskan Weather Forecast Offices will also be unaffected.

Consolidate the following products into a single "Small Craft Advisory" with a SC.Y Valid Time Event Code (VTEC):

- Small Craft Advisory
- Small Craft Advisory for Hazardous Seas
- Small Craft Advisory for Rough Bar
- Small Craft Advisory for Winds

- b. Product Type - Text

- c. Purpose - One of the outcomes of the Hazard Simplification (Haz Simp) Workshop and other feedback mechanisms so far indicates strong support for an amalgamation and shortening of NWS hazard products. Currently, over 100 outlooks, watches, warnings and statements populate the official Watch/Warning/Advisory (WWA) map. This vast number of products often causes customer confusion and, in the worst cases, leads to customer indifference to critical NWS life-saving information. NWS has identified a requirement to reduce the number of marine products as well as to simplify and shorten the information - with a focus on impacts.

- d. Audience - The target audiences for this product are customers and partners such as emergency managers, mariners, state and local officials, including school superintendents, departments of transportation, media and the general public.

- e. Presentation Format - Text based products that appear over the WWA page and all other standard dissemination methods. Some

are sent via NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System.

Comments or questions may be addressed to:

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## **Part II - Technical Description**

- a. Format and Science Basis - The format is described in Part I under "Presentation Format." As for the scientific basis, forecasters will use available tools to determine the risk of these hazards occurring in their areas and issue according to criteria and expected IMPACTS.
- b. Availability - These products will be available at all times and issued when criteria are met.

## **Product Examples:**

### **1. New Small Craft Advisory Consolidation**

URGENT - MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE  
National Weather Service Seattle WA  
848 AM PDT Wed Jul 19 2017

PZZ133-200000-  
/O.NEW.KSEW.SC.Y.0177.170720T0100Z-170720T1000Z/  
Northern Inland Waters Including The San Juan Islands-  
848 AM PDT Wed Jul 19 2017

...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 6 PM THIS EVENING TO 3 AM  
PDT THURSDAY...

\* WHAT...Hazardous wind for small craft expected. Winds will be  
15 to 25 knots with higher gusts.

\* WHERE...Northern inland waters including the San Juan Islands  
\* WHEN...6 PM Wednesday to 3 PM Thursday  
\* IMPACTS...Strongest winds will be furthest south  
\*PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...Winds and seas will create  
a potential hazard to smaller vessels and inexperienced  
mariners.

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### **Current Small Craft Advisory**

URGENT - MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE  
National Weather Service Seattle WA  
848 AM PDT Wed Jul 19 2017

PZZ133-200000-  
/O.NEW.KSEW.SC.Y.0177.170720T0100Z-170720T1000Z/  
Northern Inland Waters Including The San Juan Islands-  
848 AM PDT Wed Jul 19 2017

...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY FOR WINDS IN EFFECT FROM 6 PM THIS  
EVENING TO 3 AM PDT THURSDAY...

The National Weather Service in Seattle has issued a Small Craft  
Advisory...which is in effect from 6 PM this evening To 3 AM PDT  
Thursday.

\* WINDS...Southwest 15 to 25 knots. Strongest winds far south  
part.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A Small Craft Advisory means that wind speeds of 21 to 33 knots  
are expected to produce hazardous wave conditions to small

craft. Inexperienced mariners...especially those operating smaller vessels should avoid navigating in these conditions.

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## **2. New Beach Hazard Statement Format**

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
Coastal Hazard Message  
National Weather Service Tampa Bay Ruskin FL  
1120 AM EDT Fri May 29 2015

FLZ160-162-165-292330-  
/O.NEW.KTBW.BH.S. 0001.150529T1520Z-150530T1800Z/  
Coastal Sarasota-Coastal Charlotte-Coastal Lee-  
1120 AM EDT Fri May 29 2015

...BEACH HAZARDS STATEMENT NOW IN EFFECT THROUGH FRIDAY  
EVENING...

\* WHAT... High respiratory irritation associated with Florida Red Tide expected.

\* WHERE... Some areas of Charlotte and Lee Counties. NOAA Forecast: Southern Sarasota County: Gulf Coast...possible Friday and Saturday. Bay regions...possible Saturday.

Northern/southern Charlotte County: gulf coast...possible Friday and Saturday. Bay regions of southern Charlotte...possible Friday and Saturday.

Northern/central/southern Lee County: Gulf Coast and Bay regions...possible Friday and Saturday.

\* WHEN...Through Saturday

\* IMPACTS... Red tide potential impacts...Symptoms may include coughing...sneezing...and tearing eyes. People with respiratory Conditions such as asthma...emphysema and other pulmonary diseases...may be more sensitive. Irritation may vary locally and throughout the day.

\*PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS... You can find unaffected beaches by checking reports of recent...local observations and data.

### **Current Beach Hazard Statement Format**

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
Coastal Hazard Message  
National Weather Service Tampa Bay Ruskin FL  
1120 AM EDT Fri May 29 2015

FLZ160-162-165-292330-  
/O.NEW.KTBW.BH.S.0001.150529T1520Z-150530T1800Z/  
Coastal Sarasota-Coastal Charlotte-Coastal Lee-  
1120 AM EDT Fri May 29 2015

...BEACH HAZARDS STATEMENT NOW IN EFFECT THROUGH FRIDAY  
EVENING...

A Beach Hazards Statement is in effect for potentially high respiratory irritation associated with Florida red tide in some areas of Charlotte and Lee counties through Saturday.

\* Red tide hazards...Possible respiratory irritation in some coastal areas. For red tide forecast information visit <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab> (all lower case).

\* Red tide potential impacts... Symptoms may include coughing...sneezing...and tearing eyes. People with respiratory Conditions such as asthma...emphysema and other pulmonary diseases...may be more sensitive. Irritation may vary locally

and throughout the day. If you experience uncomfortable symptoms...consider going to an unaffected beach nearby.

\* Florida red tide respiratory irritation timing/location...NOAA Forecast: Southern Sarasota County: Gulf Coast...possible Friday and Saturday. Bay regions...possible Saturday.

Northern/southern Charlotte County: gulf coast...possible Friday and Saturday. Bay regions of southern Charlotte...possible Friday and Saturday.

Northern/central/southern Lee County: Gulf Coast and Bay regions...possible Friday and Saturday.

Precautionary/Preparedness Actions...You can find unaffected beaches by checking reports of recent...local observations and data.

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### **3. New Rip Current Statement Format**

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
Coastal Hazard Message  
National Weather Service Miami FL  
415 AM EDT Tue May 3 2016

FLZ172-173-031800-  
/O.NEW.KMFL.RP.S.0022.000000T0000Z-160503T1800Z/  
Coastal Broward-Coastal Miami-Dade-  
415 AM EDT Tue May 3 2016

...MODERATE RIP CURRENT RISK REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 2 PM EDT  
THIS AFTERNOON...

\* WHAT...Life threatening rip currents are possible.

\* WHERE... Beaches of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties.

\* WHEN...Through early afternoon.

\* IMPACTS... Rip currents can create dangerous conditions for swimmers

\*PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS... Rip currents are powerful channels of water flowing quickly away from shore...which occur most often at low spots or breaks in the sandbar and in the vicinity of structures such as groins...jetties and piers. Heed the advice of lifeguards...Beach Patrol flags and signs.

If you become caught in a rip current...yell for help. Remain calm...do not exhaust yourself and stay afloat while waiting for help. If you have to swim out of a rip current...swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly.

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#### **Current Rip Current Statement Format**

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED

Coastal Hazard Message

National Weather Service Miami FL

415 AM EDT Tue May 3 2016

FLZ172-173-031800-

/O.NEW.KMFL.RP.S.0022.000000T0000Z-160503T1800Z/

Coastal Broward-Coastal Miami-Dade-

415 AM EDT Tue May 3 2016

...MODERATE RIP CURRENT RISK REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 2 PM EDT  
THIS AFTERNOON...

\* TIMING...Through early afternoon.

\* IMPACTS...Rip currents may create dangerous conditions for swimmers along the beaches of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties.

Precautionary/Preparedness Actions...There is a moderate risk of rip currents. Rip currents are powerful channels of water flowing quickly away from shore...which occur most often at low spots or breaks in the sandbar and in the vicinity of structures such as groins...jetties and piers. Heed the advice of lifeguards...Beach Patrol flags and signs.

If you become caught in a rip current...yell for help. Remain calm...do not exhaust yourself and stay afloat while waiting for help. If you have to swim out of a rip current...swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly.

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#### **4. New High Surf Advisory Format**

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
Coastal Hazard Message  
National Weather Service Honolulu HI  
331 PM HST Thu Jan 23 2014

HIZ001>003-006>009-012-013-017-019-020-023-026-241445-  
/O.CON.PHFO.SU.Y.0003.000000T0000Z-140124T1600Z/  
Niihau-Kauai windward-Kauai leeward-Waianae coast-Oahu north  
shore-Oahu Koolau-Olomana-Molokai windward-Molokai leeward-Maui  
windward west-Maui central valley-windward  
Haleakala-Kona-Kohala-  
331 PM HST Thu Jan 23 2014

...HIGH SURF ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 AM HST FRIDAY...



\* WHAT... High Surf is expected.

\* WHERE... North and west facing shores of Niihau and Kauai and north facing shores of Oahu Molokai and Maui...surf of 10 to 20 feet. West facing shores of Oahu and Molokai...surf of 8 to 15 feet. West facing shores of the Big Island...surf of 4 to 8 feet. Surf will gradually diminish later tonight and Friday.

\* WHEN... Through tonight.

\* IMPACTS... Expect ocean water to occasionally sweep across portions of beaches...very strong breaking waves and strong longshore and rip currents. Breaking waves may occasionally impact harbors making navigating the harbor channel dangerous.

\*PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

Large breaking surf...significant shorebreak...and dangerous currents make entering the water very hazardous. Anyone entering the water could face significant injury or death. Boaters should be aware of an increased number of surfers and bodyboarders utilizing the harbor channel to access surfing areas.

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## **Current High Surf Advisory Format**

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED

Coastal Hazard Message

National Weather Service Honolulu HI

331 PM HST Thu Jan 23 2014

...High Surf Advisory for north and west facing shores of Niihau...Kauai Oahu and Molokai...for north facing shores of Maui and for west facing shores of the Big Island...

HIZ001>003-006>009-012-013-017-019-020-023-026-241445-

/O.CON.PHFO.SU.Y.0003.000000T0000Z-140124T1600Z/

Niihau-Kauai windward-Kauai leeward-Waianae coast-Oahu north shore-Oahu Koolau-Olomana-Molokai windward-Molokai leeward-Maui windward west-Maui central valley-windward

Haleakala-Kona-Kohala-

331 PM HST Thu Jan 23 2014

...HIGH SURF ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 AM HST FRIDAY...

\* SURF...North and west facing shores of Niihau and Kauai and north facing shores of Oahu Molokai and Maui...10 to 20 feet. West facing shores of Oahu and Molokai...8 to 15 feet. West facing shores of the Big Island...4 to 8 feet. Surf will gradually diminish later tonight and Friday.

\* TIMING...Through tonight.

\* IMPACTS...High...expect ocean water occasionally sweeping across portions of beaches...very strong breaking waves and strong longshore and rip currents. Breaking waves may occasionally impact harbors making navigating the harbor channel dangerous.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

Large breaking surf...significant shorebreak...and dangerous currents make entering the water very hazardous. Anyone entering the water could face significant injury or death. Boaters should be aware of an increased number of surfers and bodyboarders utilizing the harbor channel to access surfing areas.

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